

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A purified 16S rDNA-comprising the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. (Currently amended) A purified oligonucleotide probe, wherein the nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe consists of ~~which comprises~~ part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the ~~part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is a region specific to the~~ *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain probe allows for species-specific detection or identification of one or more microorganisms selected from *Psychrobacter pacificensis* and/or *Psychrobacter glacincola*.
3. (Currently amended) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2, wherein ~~said part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1~~ the nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. (Previously presented) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2 or 3 for detecting or identifying at least one bacterium selected from *Psychrobacter pacificensis* and/or *Psychrobacter glacincola*.
5. (Currently amended) A method for detecting or identifying at least one bacterium selected from *Psychrobacter pacificensis* and/or *Psychrobacter glacincola*, comprising obtaining the purified 16S rDNA of *Psychrobacter pacificensis*, obtaining a purified oligonucleotide probe from the obtained purified 16S rDNA, comprising wherein the nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the ~~part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is a region specific to the *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain~~ probe allows for species-specific detection or identification of one or more

microorganisms selected from *Psychrobacter pacificensis* and/or *Psychrobacter glacincola*, and permitting the probe to hybridize to DNA and/or RNA of the at least one bacterium.

6. (Previously presented) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2 or 3 for specifically detecting or identifying a bacterium belonging to *Psychrobacter pacificensis*.

7. (Currently amended) A method for specifically detecting or identifying a bacterium belonging to *Psychrobacter pacificensis*, comprising obtaining the purified 16S rDNA of *Psychrobacter pacificensis*, obtaining a purified oligonucleotide probe from the obtained purified 16S rDNA, comprising wherein the nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the ~~part of the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is a region specific to the *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain~~ probe allows for species-specific detection or identification of one or more microorganisms selected from *Psychrobacter pacificensis* and/or *Psychrobacter glacincola*, and permitting the probe to hybridize under stringent conditions to DNA and/or RNA of the bacterium.

8. (Withdrawn) *Psychrobacter pacificensis*, which is aerobic, gram-negative, nonmotile, colorless, non-sporulating and oxidase-positive.

9. (Withdrawn) The bacterium belonging to *Psychrobacter pacificensis* according to claim 8 wherein the bacterium is *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 (FERM BP-7106).

10. (Currently amended) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2, wherein ~~the region specific to the *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain~~ nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises nucleotide Nos. 458 to 476 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. (Previously presented) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2, wherein the probe is 10-50 bp in size.

12. (Previously presented) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 11, wherein the probe is 15-25 bp in size.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the ~~region specific to the~~ *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain of the purified oligonucleotide probe nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises nucleotide Nos. 458 to 476 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the purified oligonucleotide probe is 10-50 bp in size.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the purified oligonucleotide probe is 15-25 bp in size.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the ~~region specific to the~~ *Psychrobacter pacificensis* NIBH P2K6 strain of the purified oligonucleotide probe nucleotide sequence of the oligonucleotide probe comprises nucleotide Nos. 458 to 476 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the purified oligonucleotide probe is 10-50 bp in size.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the purified oligonucleotide probe is ~~[[10-50]]~~ 15-25 bp in size.
19. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one bacterium is *Psychrobacter glacincola*, and wherein the probe hybridizes under moderate conditions to DNA and/or RNA of the at least one bacterium.
20. (New) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 2, wherein the oligonucleotide probe is attached to a label.

21. (New) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 20, wherein the label is selected from an isotope, fluorescent colorant, and hapten.
22. (New) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 21, wherein the fluorescent colorant is selected from indodicarbocyanine, tetramethyl rhodamine isothiocyanate, and fluorescein isothiocyanate.
23. (New) The purified oligonucleotide probe according to claim 21, wherein the hapten is digoxigenin.